

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 173340

15  
ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AGR-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INT-08

LAB-06 AID-20 CIEP-02 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01

IO-13 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 SNM-02 SY-10 SCI-06 CU-04 /225 R

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8/30/73 EXT 22538

APPROVED BY EA/P:AHROSEN

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R 302125Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS STATE 173340

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 30 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SOUVANNA PHOUMA THREATENS PUBLICLY TO QUIT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 173340

AS PREMIER UNLESS THERE CAN BE AGREEMENT ON BOTH  
SIDES ON DETAILS OF SETTLEMENT. SAYS THIS WILL BE HIS  
LAST EFFORT AT FORGING NATIONAL UNION "BECAUSE  
I AM 73 AND I AM TIRED." THIS IS NOT FIRST TIME

HE HAS THREATENED TO RESIGN BUT IS FIRST TIME HE HAS DONE SO PUBLICLY (SUN, WP).

2. SOUTHERLAND (CSM) ATTRIBUTES SOUVANNA'S POLITICAL DURABILITY TO SHREWD ABILITY TO MEDIATE BETWEEN CONFLICTING GROUPS, CRUCIAL US AID, AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR HIM AS OPPOSED TO EXTREME RIGHT WING ALTERNATIVE. OBSERVES ONE HOPEFUL SIGN FOR FUTURE RESTS IN FACT THAT SOUVANNA "MAINTAINS CONSIDERABLE RESPECT" FOR SOUPHANOVONG.

3. GVN SAYS SKIRMISHES AND COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN MEKONG DELTA AND CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AROUND KONTUM LEFT MORE THAN 100 KILLED OR WOUNDED (REUTER).

4. BROWNE (NYT) IN PP REPORTS LON NOL'S FIRST NEWS CONFERENCE IN MORE THAN 7 MONTHS. LOOKING VIGOROUS, LON NOL SAID HEALTH IMPROVED AND HE PREFERENCES TO STAY WITH HIS PEOPLE TO FIGHT TO REGAIN INDEPENDENCE. CONFERENCE BEGAN WITH DENUNCIATION OF SIHANOUK AND HIS CLAIMS TO NON-ALIGNMENT; PREVIOUSLY-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS FOLLOWED. CONCERNING OUTSIDE AID, LON NOL SAID GKR HAD APPEALED TO ALL FRIENDLY NATIONS IN PAST, BUT HAS NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED GVN OR RTG MILITARY ASSISTANCE SINCE US BOMBING HALT; ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH KI SAID THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO COMPROMISE CHANCES OF SUCCESS BY DISCLOSURES BUT ALL DEPENDS ON NVA WITHDRAWAL, THUS AFFIRMING GKR POLICY OF TRYING TO DIVIDE KI BY ENCOURAGING DEFECTS AND REFUSING TO DEAL WITH NVN; HE ALSO ACCUSED NVA/VC OF GENOCIDE AND STATED FANK WILL DRIVE THEM OUT. HIS REMARKS LEAVE LITTLE OPENING FOR REAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH NVA/VC. IN SHOW OF UNITY TO DISPEL RUMORS OF INTERNAL DIVISIONS LON NOL EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, AND OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS APPEARED AT CONFERENCE BUT DID NOT PARTICIPATE. LIPPMAN (WP)  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 173340

DESCRIBES CONFERENCE AS ELABORATE AND HIGHLY PUBLICIZED BUT CONTAINING NO SURPRISES AND OFFERING NO NEW PROPOSALS; LON NOL DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH KI OR SIHANOUK BUT STATED THAT GKR'S 6-POINT PEACE PROPOSAL OF JULY 6 MET WITH ONLY FLAGRANT BAD FAITH; HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL MANDATE ENDS IN OCTOBER AND LON NOL EVADED QUESTION OF WHETHER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE ASKED TO EXTEND IT (ALSO PHINQ; UPI, NYDN). AFP TREATMENT CALLS CONFERENCE CULMINATION OF 10-DAY PROPAGANDA BARRAGE AGAINST SIHANOUK, AND HIGHLIGHTS GKR FEAR OF UNGA VOTE AS WELL AS ALGIERS NAC SUMMIT ACTION.

5. WESTERN DIPLOMATS SAY HANOI ASSUMES BACKSTAGE ROLE IN CAMBODIA SINCE SUCCESSFUL "KHMERIZATION"

OF WAR IN MID-1972, AND THAT SIHANOUK IS MORE INTERNATIONALLY THAN NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS KI LEADER SINCE INSURGENTS SEEM TO DISCOURAGE PERSONALITY CULT. FROM PP, AP REPORTS US INTELLIGENCE CLAIMS INSURGENCY DIRECTED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF KHMER CP WITH HEADQUARTERS NEAR KRATIE (SUN).

6. PLASTIC BOMB EXPLODES IN PP MARKETPLACE KILLING 3; APPEARED TIMED TO GO OFF DURING LON NOL MEETING WITH PRESS BUT CONFERENCE STARTED LATE. FANK THROWN BACK IN ATTEMPTS TO RE-OPEN ROUTES 4 AND 5 DESPITE USE OF T-28S, ARTILLERY AND APCS BUT FIGHTING

CONTINUES 30 MI SW OF PP ON ROUTE 4 AND 35 MI NW OF PP ON ROUTE 5 (WP; PHINQ; CSM; UPI NYDN, NYT; AP, SUN).

#### THAILAND

7. JOINT US-THAI STATEMENT IN BANGKOK SAYS WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES BEGAN AUG. 30 WITH DEPARTURE OF FIGHTER-BOMBER SQUADRON FROM NAM PHONG. NO DESTINATION GIVEN, BUT UNDERSTOOD SQUADRON FLOWN TO IWAKUNI, US MARINE BASE IN JAPAN (REUTER).

#### UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 173340

#### KOREA

8. DOS URGES NK CONTINUE TALKS WITH ROK AS "BEST HOPE OF REDUCING TENSIONS AND IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF ALL KOREANS." SPOKESMAN HARE SAYS "WE HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED OUR SUPPORT" FOR ROK EFFORTS TO START TALKS, AND US BELIEVES SK "HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN A FLEXIBLE AND FORTHCOMING POSITION" (AP WP, NYT).

9. NYT SEOUL DISPATCH CITES REPORTS THAT NORTH-SOUTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE TALKS ARE ON VERGE OF BREAKING DOWN. SUN'S PEPPER, IN SEOUL, NOTES THAT LEE HU RAK, IN HASTILY CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE, "OFFERED NORTH KOREA A FACE-SAVING OUT" IN SUGGESTING BOTH SIDES MIGHT APPOINT NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS -- "PRESUMABLY PEOPLE LESS TIGHTLY BOUND UP WITH THE PERSONAL PRESTIGE OF THE RULING FIGURES ON THEIR RESPECTIVE SIDES."

10. CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, SAYS NK ATTACK ON LEE HU RAK IS REGARDED NOT AS BREAKDOWN IN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE BUT AS TACTICAL OPENING TO UNGA KOREA DEBATE. BECAME KNOWN WEDNESDAY THAT SK PERMITTED JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN SEOUL TO MEET KIM DAE JUNG PERSONALLY TUESDAY; ALSO, TOKYO PRESS BEGAN HINTING THAT SK MIGHT LET KIM VISIT JAPAN FEW DAYS, THEN SEEK US ASYLUM.

JAPAN

11. NYT'S HALLORAN, IN TOKYO, REPORTS JAPAN-SK DIPLOMATIC BREACH WIDENED WEDNESDAY AS ROKG DELIVERED TO TOKYO WHAT JAPANESE OFFICIALS CONSIDERED UNSATISFACTORY REPORT ON KIM ABDUCTION. LATER PUBLICIZED, TEXT CONTAINED ONLY LIST OF VEHICLES USED ON KOREAN END OF KIDNAPPING, THINGS TAKEN FROM KIM IN EVIDENCE AND

LIST OF SHIPS INVESTIGATED AS POSSIBLY TAKING HIM TO SK. "IN SUM, THE REPORT CONTAINED LESS INFORMATION THAN GIVEN BY KIM FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 173340

12. CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, REPORTS BANK OF JAPAN'S 4TH HIKE IN DISCOUNT RATE IN 4 MONTHS (TO 7) AND COMPANION GOJ MOVES INCREASING DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT RATES FOR COMMERCIAL BANKS AND POSTPONING SOME 500 BILLION YEN WORTH OF BUDGETED PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION UNTIL NEXT YEAR. SAYS GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS PRIVATELY HOPE ONLY THAT TIGHT MONEY WILL COPE WITH SHORT-TERM INFLATIONARY FORCES. "THEY ARE MOST PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF CONTAINING LONGER-TERM STRUCTURAL INFLATIONARY FORCES."

13. CULLISON (JOC), IN TOKYO, REPORTS HIGH MITI OFFICIAL SAYING JAPAN PLAN

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BUDAPEST  
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